

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Thursday, September 20, 2001 7:30 PM

Present: Rich Bento, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jack Hurd, Lt. Jim McHugh, Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

**Minutes of 8/30/01 meeting**

The minutes of the 8/30/01 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Third public meeting**

The third public meeting will be on Wednesday 10/24 at 6 PM, in Town Hall Auditorium. Our tasks for publicizing this meeting will be the same as for the last meeting.

(Michael Rademacher and Ralph Elwell arrived at approximately 7:50 PM.)

**Oak Hill Drive and Magnolia Street Board of Selectmen (BOS) Assignments**

Ed presented a possible process for dealing with these issues (see Options for TAC response to BOS Specific Tasking in handouts). After discussion, we decided that the responsibility for research and report (Step 3) should go to an ad-hoc working group based upon the issue. We expect that in most cases, this group would have DPW and Police Department representation. For the two assignments here, a response is due back to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) by the end of the calendar year.

(Jack Hurd arrived during this discussion.)

The general discussion on these assignments included the following points:

- ?? We have to be very careful about making policy changes, because policy changes set a precedent. Therefore, an appropriate response may be to delay a policy change until the transportation study is completed.
- ?? However, we can respond to maintenance issues right away.

Oak Hill Drive: Elisabeth and others visited the area. The problem is high volume (~800 cars / day) and excessive speed, given road conditions. We appointed Ralph Elwell, Jim McHugh and Rich Bento to the ad hoc committee for Oak Hill Drive, and to make a preliminary report at the next meeting.

Magnolia Street: Both Scott and Elisabeth visited the area. This is primarily a parking, and not a traffic, issue. Residents concerns include a) a desire to allow overnight parking, and b) commuter parking. Scott noted that for a distance of about 5 houses north of

Herbert Road, most of the parking spaces on Magnolia and Thorndike streets were full at 5 PM earlier this week. Presumably, some of these vehicles belong to commuters.

David noted that the Town already has three parking subcommittees. Should TAC be involved in parking at all? However, parking issues are transportation related, so TAC needs to have some involvement.

We appointed Jim McHugh, David Walkinshaw and Elisabeth Carr-Jones to the ad hoc committee for Magnolia St. and to make a preliminary report at the November meeting.

### **Projects affecting transportation and the town**

Rich noted that the Mass. Ave. corridor study (between Franklin Street and the Cambridge line) was underway. The study is looking at the possibility of a median or crossing islands, crosswalk configuration and signalized intersections. A preliminary report is expected from the consultant at the end of October.

Representatives from Louis Berger are expected to attend the 10/17 TAC meeting to make a report on the plan for their work

Scott presented a draft letter to be sent from the BOS to Mass Highway concerning snow and ice removal at the bikeway underpass by Alewife Station. Rich suggested that a direct communication from Arlington DPW to the contractor might be more effective. We voted to recommend that the Town communicate this concern to Mass Highway and/or the contractor who is directly responsible for the work. The TAC will forward a letter to the BOS requesting they send a letter such as the draft.

### **Stop sign discussion**

This was primarily a discussion of 4-way stop signs, based on the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) warrants. Points made include the following:

- ?? The warrants are primarily concerned with traffic volume, accident history and visibility. There are, however, some exceptions for crossing residential collectors and areas where many children may be expected
- ?? The MUTCD warrants, by themselves, are not specific enough to be applied directly

Rich suggested, and Scott moved, that the Town ask Louis Berger Group to do a scope of work for developing a set of stop sign warrants specifically for the Town. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Surveys**

Several hundred surveys were received, and are in the possession of Elisabeth, Ed and Scott. Scott will send a draft spreadsheet to Elisabeth and Ed for tabulation.

## **Other items**

We affirmed that when members of the community have concerns, the appropriate process is to bring the concerns first to the BOS by letter or in person, and the BOS may then refer them to the TAC.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.**

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## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

Agenda package (this included the agenda, publicity plan for the 10/24 meeting, synopsis of the Oak Hill Drive and Magnolia Street concerns, LBG design study deliverables, LBG Mass Ave. corridor study deliverables, timelines of activities and planned developments that will impact transportation, public meeting summary, draft spec for TAC web needs) – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 8/30/01 meeting – from Scott Smith

List of high accident locations – from Jim McHugh

“Neighborhood Traffic Control” – from Rich Bento

“Taking it to the Streets: Information for the Non-Traffic Engineer” – from Rich Bento

Notes on 4-way stop signs (primarily the MUTCD guidelines) – from Scott Smith

Draft letter from the BOS to Mass Highway concerning the underpass by Alewife Station – from Scott Smith